

Healthcare Facility Infection Control Recommendations for Suspect Measles Patients



To minimize the risk of measles transmission in healthcare settings, healthcare personnel should:

1. When patients with a febrile rash* call to schedule an appointment, query patients about a history of international travel, contact with foreign visitors, transit through an international airport, or possible exposure to a measles patient in the 3 weeks prior to symptom onset; suspect measles in patients with such a history.
2. If measles is strongly suspected in a patient who has not yet presented in a facility, encourage the patient to seek evaluation at a facility with an airborne infection isolation room, if possible. Many hospital emergency departments have these rooms.
3. If possible, schedule suspect measles patients at the end of the day or when few other patients will be present.
4. Notify the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) immediately of any suspect measles patients; call (317) 233-7125.
5. Mask suspect measles patients immediately. If a mask cannot be tolerated, implement other practical means of source containment. Do not allow suspect measles patients to remain in the waiting area or other common areas; isolate them immediately in an airborne infection isolation room if one is available. For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007isolationPrecautions.html>
6. Allow only healthcare personnel with documentation of 2 doses of live measles vaccine or laboratory evidence of immunity (measles IgG positive) to enter the patient's room. Regardless of immunity, healthcare personnel should use respiratory precautions when working with a suspect measles patient.
7. If possible, do not allow susceptible (i.e. non-immune) family members or visitors in the patient room.
8. Do not use the examination room for at least two hours after the suspect measles patient leaves.
9. Notify any location where the patient is being referred for additional clinical evaluation or laboratory testing. Instruct suspect measles patients and exposed persons to inform all healthcare providers of the possibility of measles prior to entering a healthcare facility.
10. Document staff and other patients who were in the area during the time the suspect measles patient was in the facility.

11. For more information on measles testing, please see:

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/25456.htm>

* Measles typically begins with a mild to moderate fever accompanied by cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis. Two to three days later, Koplik's spots (tiny red spots with bluish-white centers inside mouth on the lining of the cheek), which are a characteristic sign of measles, may appear. At this time the fever spikes, often as high as 104-105°F. At the same time, a red blotchy maculopapular rash appears that may become confluent, usually appearing first on the face - along the hairline and behind the ears. This slightly itchy rash rapidly spreads downward and outward to the chest and back and, finally, to the thighs and feet. In approximately one week, the rash fades in the same sequence that it appeared. Desquamation can occur after the rash fades.

